



MAIL STOP - AMENDMENT  
Docket No. 25834  
Attorneys: GMN/JLM

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: SUGAHARA et al.

Art Unit: 2613

Appl. No.: 10/720,542

Examiner: UNKNOWN

Filed: November 25, 2003

Confirmation No.: 4389

Title: **VARIABLE LENGTH DATA ENCODING METHOD, VARIABLE LENGTH DATA ENCODING APPARATUS, VARIABLE LENGTH ENCODED DATA DECODING METHOD, AND VARIABLE LENGTH ENCODED DATA DECODING APPARATUS**

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith for filing in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is the following:

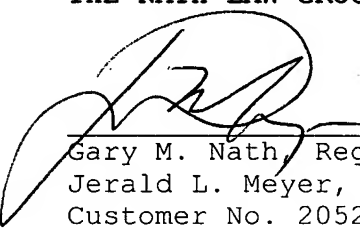
1. Information Disclosure Statement;
2. PTO Form-1449 with 4 references cited;
3. Copies of the 4 cited references.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any excess to Deposit Account No. 14-0112.

Respectfully submitted,  
**THE NATH LAW GROUP**

April 9, 2007

**THE NATH LAW GROUP**  
112 South West Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

  
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Gary M. Nath, Reg. No. 26,965  
Jerald L. Meyer, Reg. No. 44,194  
Customer No. 20529

ct



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Attorneys: GMN/JLM

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

An Information Disclosure Statement is submitted herewith pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97-1.98. Please note the following particulars: [NOTE: One only of items a, b, c, and d must be checked.]

a. ☐ The enclosed statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of a national application, or within three months of the date of entry into the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.491 in an international application, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, whichever event occurs last.

b. ☒ The enclosed statement is being filed after a first action on the merits but before the mailing date of a final action under 37 C.F.R. 1.113, or a notice of allowance under 37 C.F.R. 1.311.

The enclosed statement is accompanied by [check one]:

☒ i. a certification in part (e) below as specified in 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e), or

☐ ii. a check in the amount required by 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p).

c. ☐ The enclosed statement is being filed after the mailing date of a final action under 37 C.F.R. 1.113, or a notice of allowance under 37 C.F.R. 1.311, but before payment of the issue fee.

☐ Certification report(e) below; and

☐ a check in the amount as required by 1.17(p).

d.    ☐        The enclosed statement is being filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97(i), for placement in the file.

e.    Certification [Check one]    [Certification is required only if box (b)(i) or box (c) is checked.]

[XXX]        I hereby certify that each item of information contained in the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement,

or

☐        I hereby certify that no item of information in the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

or

☐        Appropriate certification is attached.

f.    [XXX]        If no check is enclosed and a fee is due in connection with this communication or if the check enclosed is insufficient, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee or additional fee due in connection with this communication to Deposit Account No. 14-0112.

g.    [XXX]        Copies of the documents are attached herewith with a completed PTO Form-1449.

or

☐        Copies of the documents are not attached, with a completed PTO Form-1449 as allowed under CFR 1.98(d)(1)(2). The earlier application is identified as:

and / or

☐        Copies of US Patents/Publications not attached, with a completed PTO Form-1449 as allowed in Official Gazette Aug. 5, 2003/ Vol. 1273, no. 1.

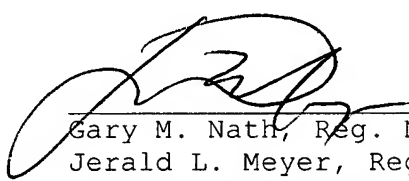
The Examiner is respectfully requested to cite the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 in the next Office Action. In so doing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initial in the space adjacent to the listing of each document on the Form PTO-1449, and return a copy of the initialed Form PTO-1449 with the next communication to Applicants, to confirm that these documents have been considered by the Examiner and made of record in this application.

If the Examiner has any questions or wishes to discuss this application, kindly telephone the undersigned at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted,  
**THE NATH LAW GROUP**

April 9, 2007

**THE NATH LAW GROUP**  
112 South West Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

  
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Docket No.: 25834U  
Attorneys: GMN/JLM

<b>PTO FORM-1449</b> <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE</b> <b>CITATION</b>	Inventor: SUGAHARA et al.	
	Appl. No.: 10/720,542	Art Unit: 2613
	Filed: November 25, 2003	Examiner: UNKNOWN

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Exam. Initial		Document No.	Issue/Public. Date	Inventor	Filed Date
	A1				
	A2				

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Exam. Initial		Document No.	Public. Date	Country	Translation
	A3	09-098381	08 Apr 1997	JP	Abstract
	A4	2000-341632	08 Dec 2000	JP	Abstract
	A5	07-312593	28 Nov 1995	JP	Abstract
	A6	61-029232	10 Feb 1986	JP	Abstract
	A7				
	A8				
	A9				
	A10				

**OTHER**

Exam. Initial	(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)	
	A11	
	A12	
	A13	
	A14	
	A15	
	A16	
	A17	
	A18	
	A19	
	A20	

Examiner	Date Considered
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Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP'609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.